

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ADDIS 02912 101236Z

ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 L-03 TRSE-00 COME-00 OMB-01

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FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3912

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EINV ET

SUBJ: EXPROPRIATED U.S. PROERTY IN ETHIOPIA

REF: A. STATE 089263, B. 76 ADDIS ABABA 11620

1. AS DEPT IS AWARE, REPS OF ALL EMBASSIES AT ADDIS ABABA ARE NOT ALLOWED TO COMMUNICATE DIRECTLY WITH COMPENSATION COMMISSION OFFICIALS BUT RATHER THROUGH MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS (MOFA) ON MATTERS RELATING TO COMPENSATION. EMBOFFS HAVE ATTEMPTED TO OBTAIN STATUS REPORT AS REQUESTED REF A THROUGH MOFA BUT OFFICIALS WERE UNABLE TO PROVIDE LIST OF US FIRMS AND INDIVIDUALS WHICH HAVE SUBMITTED CLAIMS TO COMMISSION. ECON/COMM COUNS HAD RATHER UNSATISFACTORY PHONE CONVERSATION ON MAY 9 WITH WOLLE CHEKOL, HEAD OF MOFA ECON DEPT. ATO WOLLE STATED THAT NOT ALL AMERICAN FIRMS HAD SUBMITTED CLAIMS. ECON COUNS AGREED BUT POINTED OUT MOST HAD. WOLLE THEN CLAIMED THAT AMERICAN FIRMS HAD NOT SENT WELL-INFORMED REPS TO HOLD DISCUSSIONS WITH COMMISSION. COUNS REPOSED THAT HE WAS SURE US FIRMS WOULD SEND NEGOTIATORS TO ETHIOPIA AS SOON AS COMMISSION INDICATED IT WAS READY TO BEGIN SUBSTANTIVE NEGOTIATIONS WITH FORMER OWNERS. WHEN ASKED TO CITE EXAMPLES OF SIGNIFICANT NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN COMMISSION AND FORMER OWNERS (U.S. OR OTHER), OR ANY INDICATION FROM COMMISSION THAT IT WAS READY TO BEGIN SUCH DISCUSSIONS, MOFA OFFICIAL AGREED THAT THUS FAR COMMISSION HAD NOT DONE EITHER.

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PAGE 02 ADDIS 02912 101236Z

2. THE FOLLOWING REPORT IS BASED ON OUR OBSERVATIONS AND DISCUSSIONS WITH EXPAT REPS OF AFFECTED FIRMS IN ADDITION TO DISCUSSIONS WITH MOFA OFFICIALS.

ANSWER ARE KEYED TO QUESTIONS POSED IN PARA 2 REF A:

A. EMB LIST OF US FIRMS WHICH HAVE SUBMITTED CLAIMS IS BASICALLY

THE SAME AS THAT IN REFTTEL. EMB RECORDS ALSO SHOW THAT ALL FIRMS LISTED IN REFTTEL HAVE SUBMITTED CLAIMS ALTHOUGH MOSVOLD AND ETHIOPIAN GUM (AND MILLE FARMS) CLAIMS HAVE ONLY BEEN SUBMITTED TO COMMISSION IN THE PAST WEEK. MOSVOLD DELAY DUE TO CONFUSION AS TO POSTAL ADDRESS OF COMMISSION (SEE PARA 5 BELOW). EMB HAD BEEN HOLDING ETHIOPIAN GUM CLAIMS PENDING RECEIPT OF INSTRUCTIONS REGARDING DELIVERY. IN ADDITION, STERLING DRUG PRESENTED CLAIM TO COMMISSION FEB 3, 1977. DON MCCLURE, JR., RECENTLY INFORMED EMB HE HAD SUBMITTED CLAIM FOR AIRCRAFT. EMB BELIEVES THAT CROWN CORK AND SEVENTH DAY ADVENTISTS (HOSPITAL) ARE PREPARING CLAIMS BUT HAVE NOT YET SUBMITTED THEM. EMB HAS NO INFO WHETHER AMERICAN LIFE INS. CO. AND MISSIONARIES WITH LIGHT AIRCRAFT (APART FROM ANDERSON AND MCCLURE), HAVE SUBMITTED CLAIMS.

B. TO BEST EMB KNOWLEDGE, COMMISSION HAS NOT BEGUN SUBSTANTIVE NEGOTIATIONS WITH ANY CLAIMANTS. SEVERAL FIRMS HAVE REPORTED TO EMB THAT THEY PRESENTED CLAIMS TO COMMISSION AND HELD GENERAL DISCUSSION WITH COMMISSIONERS OVER COFFEE BUT WERE TOLD COMMISSION HAS ESTABLISHED INTERNAL RULES OF PROCEDURE AND IS WORKING ON SYSTEM OF PRIORITIES. COMMISSIONERS REFUSED TO ESTIMATE WHEN THEY WILL BE IN A POSITION TO BEGIN NEGOTIATIONS.

C. COMMISSION HAS GIVEN NO INDICATION OF BASIS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 ADDIS 02912 101236Z

ON WHICH IT WILL PROPOSE SETTLEMENT.

3. EMB INCREASINGLY PESSIMISTIC ABOUT LIKELIHOOD OF COMPENSATION NEGOTIATIONS IN NEXT SEVERAL MONTHS. WHILE EPMG OFFICIALS CONTINUE TO ASSURE US THAT NEGOTIATIONS WILL OCCUR, FACT REMAINS THAT OVER 27 MONTHS HAVE PASSED SINCE NATIONALIZATIONS AND APART FROM THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE COMPENSATION COMMISSION AND ITS ACCEPTANCE OF CLAIMS, NOTHING FURTHER HAS HAPPENED VIS-A-VIS THE CLAIMANTS.

4. EMB ALSO NOTES THAT MOSVOLD CLAIM WAS NOT ACCEPTED BY COMMISSION DUE TO INCORRECT POST OFFICE BOX ADDRESS. CORRECT P. O. BOX NUMBER IS 30702 REPEAT 30702 NOT 702 AS EMB HAD BEEN PREVIOUSLY INFORMED. EMB REQUESTS THIS CORRECTION BE PASSED TO ALL POTENTIAL CLAIMANTS. AS MOST US CLAIMANTS HAVE PRESENTED CLAIMS IN PERSON, EMB DOES NOT BELIEVE THIS CONFUSION HAS SERIOUSLY AFFECTED

RECEIPT OF U.S. CLAIMS.

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Message Attributes

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Concepts: CLAIMS, COMPENSATION, REPORTS, NEGOTIATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 10-May-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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